

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a neurodegenerative ocular disease selected from retinitis pigmentosa, age-related macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy, in a subject in need of said treating, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of etazolate.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said treating increases neuron survival in said subject.

Claim 32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 30, wherein the neurodegenerative ocular disease is age-related macular degeneration.

Claims 34 and 35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 30, wherein etazolate is administered in oral form.

Claims 37-40. (Canceled)

41. (new) A method for protecting photoreceptors in a subject with retinitis pigmentosa, age-related macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of etazolate.